



HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE

The Lamplighters



A thriller by Glenn Chandler
Directed by Carlos Lehmann

9 - 30 MAY 2026



THE LAMPLIGHTERS

SYNOPSIS

In a remote Cumbrian farmhouse, three former detectives reunite on the anniversary of a murder case that still haunts them. When they are joined by a determined young crime writer who is unwilling to let the past lie, old loyalties splinter and buried secrets start to surface. As mist closes in and the night deepens, their friendship falters and, after 10 years, the truth may finally emerge.

The Lamplighters was first performed at the Tabard Theatre 2013.

CAST

Frank Stringer
Oliver Roberts

John McBurney
David Steadman

Alan Michaels
Scott Harding

Jo Tempel
Lucy Parsonson

Billy Tuttle
Indie Keddell

CREATIVE

Playwright
Glenn Chandler

Director
Carlos Lehmann

Set designer
Nathan Hey

Lighting & sound designer
Nicole Ashley

PRODUCTION

**Production co-ordinator
& rehearsal prompt**
Laurie Mills

Stage manager
Trevor Hynes

**Assistant stage
managers**
Alex Widjaja
Ginny Jones

**Costume
co-ordinator**
Jenny Connors

Décor & props
Laurie Mills
Jan Aitken
June Tong
Alison Mudford

Fight co-ordinator
Nathan Hey

Photography
Andrew (AJ) Johnson

Special Thanks

HLT gratefully acknowledges the work of AV Technician/Supervisor Glenn Horan on this production.

**Lighting & sound
operators**
Ian Di Fiore
Clementine Zhang
Tiffany Hu
Daniel Wong

Set construction crew
Nathan Hey (*set foreman*)
David Gifford
Rios Hey
Hollis Hey
Pat Hudson
Doug Johnston
Angela McLaughlin
Andrew Walden
Chris Woodhead

Graphic designer
Emma Love



Principal Funder: Howick Local Board

This production is two hours, including a 20-minute interval. It contains strong language and adult themes and is recommended for ages 16+. Please remember to switch off all mobile phones and noise-emitting devices.





WELCOME AND DIRECTOR'S NOTE

After working on my first HLT production, *Wait Until Dark*, in 2023, I was delighted to be asked if I was interested in directing *The Lamplighters* this year, and after reading Glenn Chandler's amazing script, of course I said yes. I believe that as creatives, we should always be striving to grow, and that theatre is one of the most valuable places for a director to refine their skills. Without the safety net of post-production, every moment must be carefully considered, while still remaining flexible and responsive to the energy of a live audience.

Working on *The Lamplighters* has given me the opportunity to explore new directing methods and expand my creative approach. I've relished the process and would describe it as an incredibly rewarding experience, made all the more special by collaborating with such a talented and dedicated group of people.

Carlos Lehmann



GLENN CHANDLER

Playwright

Glenn Chandler was born in Edinburgh, moved to London, and started his writing career at the Soho Poly Theatre, graduating to writing episodes of *Angels* for the BBC and *Crown Court* for Granada. In 1982, he was approached by Robert Love of Scottish Television with a commission to write a three-part detective serial called *Killer*, which eventually became *Taggart*. *Taggart* ran from 1983 to 2008, and still holds the record as the longest running detective series in the world.

Glenn also wrote a number of true-crime dramas for Yorkshire Television, including one about George Joseph Smith, the Brides in the Bath killer, starring Martin Kemp. He then returned to theatre and set up his own company, Boys of the Empire Productions, not only writing but producing and directing his own plays, two of which won awards, on the Edinburgh Fringe.

Most of those he transferred to the Above The Stag Theatre in London, then the only full-time LGBT theatre in the country. He now concentrates on writing books on true-crime subjects. His *The Sins of Jack Saul*, about a Victorian rent boy, has sold around the world. He lives in Hertfordshire with his partner.



CARLOS LEHMANN

Director

Carlos joined HLT in early 2022 wanting to learn about directing plays. His experience in directing was mainly short films and YouTube productions - mediums that demand a very different creative approach.

Since then, he's continued to develop his craft in theatre, embracing its unique challenges and rewards. In 2023, Carlos directed his first stage play, *Wait Until Dark*, here at the HLT.



OLIVER ROBERTS

Frank Stringer

This is Oliver's first play at Howick Little Theatre, having performed at The Dolphin (including *An Ideal Husband* last year and *Glengarry Glen Ross*), The Rose Centre (*Rumours* and *God of Carnage*), The Pumphouse Theatre (in the debut performance of *Call Girls*) and Ellerslie Theatre (including *A Picture of Dorian Gray*). He wanted to be in *Lamplighters* as soon as he heard about it - for the story and the chance to work with actors he's long admired. He says: "David and Scott were telling me about it over a drink... and I thought, 'I've got to be in that!'"



DAVID STEADMAN

John McBurney

A fan of Glenn Chandler's writing, David has enjoyed sinking his teeth into the gritty reality of *Lamplighters*. Chandler's work has been noted as exploring those dark corners of life that elude us, experiences that take place on the periphery of society. To quote Chandler: "I like to find some corner of life, a world that people don't know, and get into it and explore it." David couldn't agree more.

Some of David's favourite past roles include: George in *It's a Wonderful Life*, Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Proctor in *The Crucible*, Juror 8 in *12 Angry Men*, Tony in *Dial M for Murder*, Man in *Kandahar*, Peter in *Bug*, Bruno in *Strangers on a Train*, Michael in *Festen* and McMurphy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. David has also appeared in many television productions and commercials.





SCOTT HARDING

Alan Michaels

After a long hiatus, Scott is delighted to be treading the boards again at HLT. He was last onstage in Titirangi Theatre's 2025 production of *The 53rd Victim*.

Scott has thoroughly enjoyed bringing to life the complex character of DI Alan Michaels, and the opportunity to be a part of an amazing cast and crew.



LUCY PARSONSON

Jo Tempel

Growing up both in front of and behind the camera, Lucy has long held a passion for storytelling and performance. A trained actor and accomplished singer with an impressive vocal range, she is a versatile performer who shines in musical theatre. Her experience spans short films and commercial productions, making her a well-rounded and dynamic talent ready for any stage or screen. *The Lamplighters* is Lucy's first appearance at the HLT.



INDIE KEDDELL

Billy Tuttle

Recently graduated from South Seas Film School with a Diploma in Drama and Screen Acting, Indie is a versatile actor who is fascinated by the complexities of human nature, and that's what motivated him to audition for the mysterious Billy in *The Lamplighters*. His recent work has been in short films, and *The Lamplighters* marks Indie's first work in adult community theatre. He enjoys spending his downtime immersed in many different creative outlets including music and scriptwriting. His musical interests include electric and acoustic guitar, and Indie enjoys many sports including ice hockey, Taekwondo and horse riding

THE LEONIDS

The Leonids referred to in the play are a prolific annual meteor shower. They also produce spectacular meteor storms, which occur about every 33 years. They get their name from the location of their radiant in the constellation Leo: the meteors appear to radiate from that point in the sky. The name is derived from Greek and Latin with the prefix "Leo-" referring to the constellation and the suffix "-ids" signifying that the meteor shower is the offspring of the constellation Leo. The Leonids are also visible in New Zealand, typically peaking around November 17-18, though they appear lower on the northern horizon compared with the Northern Hemisphere. The best viewing time is after midnight, particularly between 3 am and dawn, when watchers can expect 10-20 fast, bright meteors an hour in optimal, dark conditions.





HOWICK LITTLE THEATRE

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A dramatic romance by **Steven Dietz**

Directed by **Penel Keegan**



ONE LOVE ACROSS A LIFETIME

11 JULY – 1 AUGUST 2026

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